

NOXIOUS WEED MANAGEMENT FY07 REPORT



Prepared
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***Montana Fish,
Wildlife & Parks***

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INTRODUCTION

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) owns, leases, manages, or holds in conservation easement about 610 sites across the state and is responsible for noxious weed management on over 364,000 acres. These sites include 35 administrative sites, 360 fisheries sites, 88 state park sites, and 127 wildlife sites.

In Fiscal Year 2007 (FY07), active integrated weed management activities took place on over 7,220 acres, and more than 1,000 biological control insect releases occurred on infested areas. FWP personnel also assisted counties with insect releases on lands surrounding FWP-owned or managed properties. Typically, long-term weed control success is neither a rapid nor a readily observable development, yet FWP strives for long-term success and uses available tools to manage noxious weeds.



Figure 1. Beartooth WMA prior to the Meriweather Fire that burned during summer 2007.

For the majority of FWP sites, on-the-ground weed control is accomplished via contract with county weed districts or private contractors. At times, spraying is subcontracted through the counties with private contractors. To supplement contracted weed control efforts FWP utilized nearly 50 employees licensed by the Department of Agriculture for herbicide application at FWP sites in FY07. FWP also has a staff member assigned statewide weed management coordination duties as well as an Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator. The weed management coordinator assists managers with reporting weed management activities on FWP lands and acts as a liaison between FWP and other state agencies, county weed districts/boards, noxious weed control organizations, educators, and the general public.

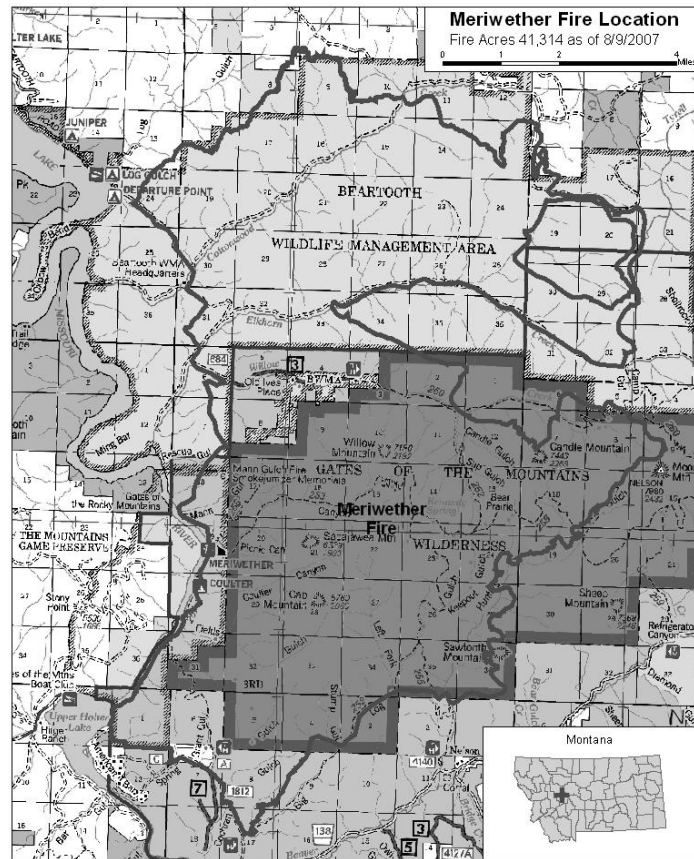


Figure 2. Much of the Beartooth WMA burned in 2007 and will require a careful watch for noxious weed invasion.

How noxious weed control is addressed on FWP-managed sites depends on various factors. Some sites are groomed, such as mowed lawns, and do not require chemical application. Decisions are influenced by such factors as aesthetics, proximity to neighbors, potential weed transfer, and weed efforts of adjacent landowners. On other areas, such as expansive Wildlife Management Areas, weed establishment is deterred through managing range and vegetative health with rest-rotation livestock grazing systems.

Sites like Fishing Access Sites require careful management because they are inherently associated with water. Soil type, slope, riparian vegetation, water table, and proximity to surface water can limit the use of chemicals at these sites. When possible, herbicides approved for use near water are used, but chemical applicators (regardless of employer) are often still unwilling to take on the environmental risk and associated liability. Additionally, some of these sites are remote, poorly developed, and have poor access which prohibits regularly accessing the areas with spray equipment. On these types of sites, FWP must rely heavily on biological control, a treatment method that is not always successful, and when successful, slow to result in visible improvement.

FISCAL YEAR 2007 NOXIOUS WEED MANAGEMENT

In fiscal year 2007, FWP expended nearly \$355,000 for on-the-ground weed control efforts. An additional \$272,363 was spent on weed education and outreach, grants, and other weed management activities. These figures may not include all personnel time and effort spent on fieldwork, reporting, weed plan preparation, contracts, etc. Parks Division accounting records (SABHRS) of weed management expenditures are included in Appendix J. Regional breakdown of weed expenditures can be found in Appendix K. Because of the highly invasive nature of noxious weeds, FWP's weed control expenditures have been increasing and typically exceed proposed budgets.

In addition to FWP's direct on-the-ground control efforts, the Department participated in the following weed management activities:

- The Block Management Program pays approximately \$4 million annually to cooperating landowners. These payments are intended to offset hunter impacts on enrolled lands, including impacts associated with noxious weed control. Through the Block Management Program, FWP potentially influences weed control on over eight million acres of Montana land enrolled in the program.
- Senate Bill 326, Section 26, authorized FWP to offer up to 5% in additional incentive payments to Block Management cooperators who agree to use those payments for specific weed management activities on lands under their control. For the 2006 (FY07) hunting season nearly all Block Management cooperators (1,256) chose to receive the weed management payment. FY07 incentive payments totaled \$184,613. Much of this money is used as match funding for Noxious Weed Trust Fund grants for weed control projects in Cooperative Weed Management Areas (CWMAs) that are lead by County Weed Districts.
- Fish, Wildlife and Parks staff membership in the Montana Weed Control Association reached an all time high in 2007. Thirty-one agency employees, including the Director's Office, took advantage of MWCA Group Membership opportunities.
- Fish, Wildlife and Parks has continued to support the Montana Statewide Noxious Weed Awareness Campaign through purchase and funding of Campaign produced materials such as the annual Noxious Weed Calendar.
- Nearly 100,000 acres of FWP owned and managed land benefit from leased livestock grazing. Properly managed rangelands help prevent the establishment of noxious weeds.
- In June of 2007 Eurasian watermilfoil was discovered in Noxon and Cabinet Gorge Reservoirs. Avista Corporation owns and manages the reservoirs, dams and shoreline and worked closely with FWP and others to draft a management plan and begin addressing this new infestation. Management of this new invader will require considerable planning and thought to prevent elimination of desirable aquatic vegetation

and avoid opening up habitat for Eurasian watermilfoil and Curly leaf pondweed to more aggressively invade. Once established, curly leaf pondweed can be far more difficult to control than the non-native milfoil.

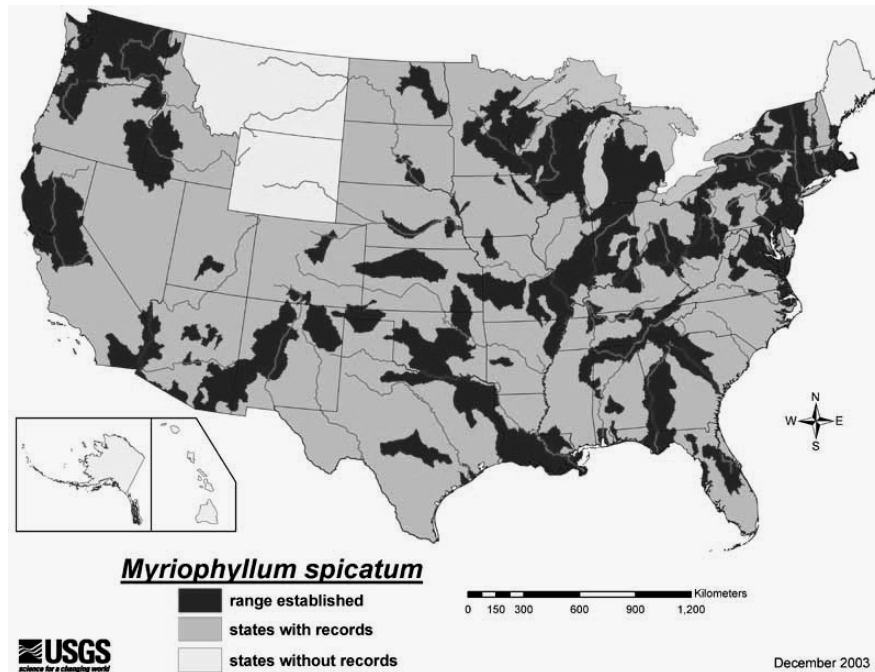


Figure 3: Eurasian water milfoil distribution prior to discovery in Montana June 2007.

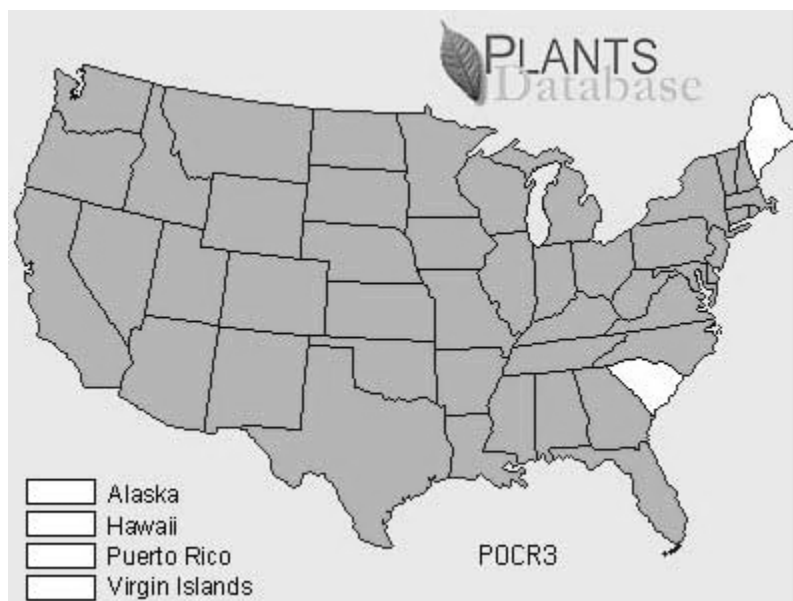


Figure 4. Curly leaf pondweed distribution in the United States.

- FWP continues to extend a helping hand to Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation for publication of *TIPS for Fighting Weeds on Small Acreages in Montana*. The initial printing of this very informative and useful “how to style” guide lasted less than one month on FWP shelves. The supply obtained from the second printing was exhausted just as quickly in 2007.

Recreational Trails and Off-Highway Vehicle Grant Programs

For FY07 \$1.6 million in federal funding was available through FWP for trails projects for the creation, completion, maintenance or renovation of recreational trails in Montana. The Recreational Trails Grant program requires that a weed management plan is in place for the proposed project area. Proposed projects frequently include a weed control component.

The portion of Recreational Trail (Table 1) and Off-Highway Vehicle grants (Table 2) awarded by FWP that were used for weed control and/or inventory totaled \$23,450 in FY07.

Table 1. Fiscal Year 2007 Recreational Trails Program Grants that addressed noxious weed management.

Project Sponsor	Project Description	Grant Amount
Ponderosa Snow Warriors	Snowmobile Trail Grooming / Weed Control	\$8,000
USDA Forest Service, Butte Ranger District	Trail Renovation / Weed Control	\$1,350
Total Grants		\$9,350

Table 2. Fiscal Year 2007 OHV Program Grants that incorporated weed control.

Project Sponsor	Project Description	Grant Amount
USDA Forest Service, Dillon Ranger District	Trail Ranger Program	\$ 2,000
USDA Forest Service, Bitterroot Ranger District	Track The Tread Trail Ranger	\$ 1,000
USDA Forest Service, Swan Lake Ranger District	Trail Ranger Program	\$ 1,000
USDA Forest Service, Hebgen Lake Ranger District	Trail Ranger Program	\$ 1,600
USDA Forest Service, Madison Ranger District	Trail Ranger Program	\$ 1,000
USDA Forest Service, Gallatin Ranger District	Trail Ranger Program	\$ 3,200
USDA Bureau of Land Management	Trail Ranger Program	\$ 1,500
FWP/Motorized Trail Vehicle Riders Association	Ethics Program	\$ 4,300
Total Grants		\$ 14,100

Off-Highway Vehicle Grant funds totaling \$300,000 were available through FWP for Fiscal Year 2007. Historically, most of the grants have included funding for weed education and control.

Sikes Act Projects

The Sikes Act of 1974 (Public Law 92-452) is federal legislation that allows for memoranda of understanding between state fish and wildlife agencies and federal natural resource agencies to develop a funding source and partner in projects for the restoration and enhancement of fish and wildlife habitat on public lands. In 1993, FWP developed agreements with the U.S. Forest Service and U.S. Bureau of Land Management to cost-share, on a 50:50 basis, for habitat restoration and improvements on public lands. On occasion, projects are funded that have a strong weed control component, which in turn improves fish and wildlife habitat. FWP FY07 Sikes Act funding totaling \$10,000 targeted weeds on the Custer National Forest (Table 3) and was matched with \$13,000 in federal funds.

Table 3: FWP Sikes Act dollars spent on noxious weed control projects in FY07.

Project Location	Project	FWP Sikes Act Funding
Custer National Forest	Ashland Division Weed Control	\$ 3,000.00
Custer National Forest	Ekalaka Hills and Long Pines Weed Control (Sioux Division)	\$ 7,000.00
Total FWP Funding		\$ 10,000.00

FAS Internship

In 2004, the Montana Department of Agriculture (MDA) initiated evaluation of weed infestations on a number of Fishing Access Sites and State Parks. To follow up on this effort, FWP and MDA have since teamed up annually to fund an intern to continue the evaluations. The purpose of this endeavor has been to objectively evaluate the effectiveness of noxious weed control activities at these high public-use sites and concurrently document the current level of weed infestation on and adjacent to the sites.

Each summer an intern has been hired and trained through MDA. The intern works cooperatively with FWP regional staff to identify and locate Fishing Access Sites and State Parks for evaluation. The standardized methodology and forms provided through MDA's weed professionals provide simple and accurate evaluation of weed infestations at FWP sites visited. This valuable joint venture will continue in 2008 with the intent to carry on evaluations until trends and management recommendations can be determined.

Statewide Integrated Noxious Weed Management Plan

Since mandated in 1995 by Section 7-22-2151 of the Montana County Weed Control Act, Six-Year Weed Management Plans have been completed for FWP properties in all seven

administrative regions. As an alternative to the seven administrative regions producing individual plans every six years, FWP Helena and regional staff are working together to produce one Statewide Noxious Weed Management Plan.

Fish, Wildlife and Parks land managers will be able to use this document to prioritize and direct their on-the-ground weed management. The Plan will provide the conceptual framework and clear, detailed recommendations for preventing introductions, reducing existing infestations, maintaining low noxious weed soil-seed bank levels, reducing susceptibility of Parks, FASs, and WMAs to weed establishment, and managing weed spread on those properties. It will also strengthen the existing goals and objectives of FWP land managers regarding their weed control efforts. The document will provide guidance and direction to FWP field staff while maintaining flexibility for local priorities and actions. It is not intended to be site specific. County Weed Agreements and Operations and Maintenance Plans incorporate site-specific management. However, the Statewide Plan will coordinate and direct statewide management and ensure that priorities and goals are met down to the regional and site-specific levels.

Weed Management Services (Celestine Duncan) of Helena, Montana has been contracted to produce the Statewide Integrated Noxious Weed Management Plan for FWP. Pending public comment, completion of the Statewide Plan is now expected in spring 2008.

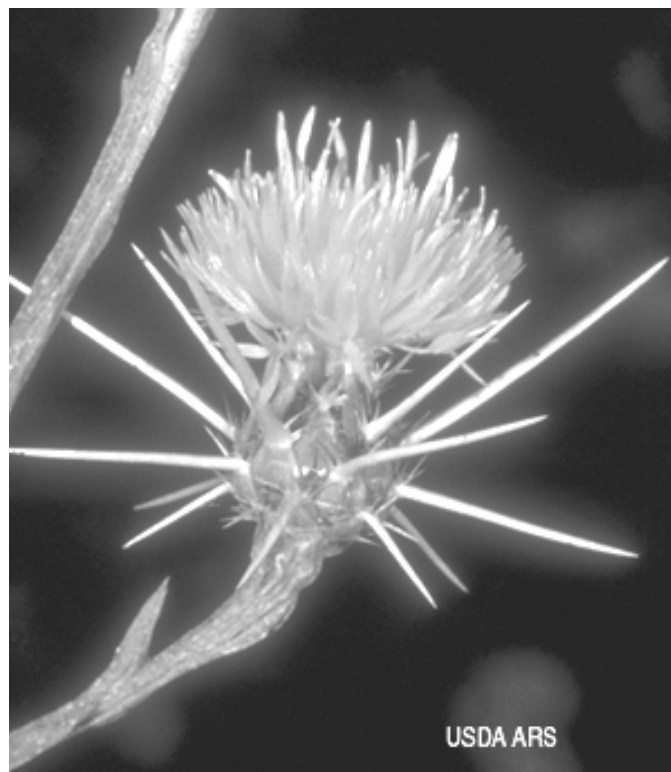


Figure 5. Yellow Starthistle is lurking just over the border in Idaho, occupying thousands of acres, and waiting for its opportunity to strike Montana.

Noxious Weed Management Advisory Committee

The FWP Noxious Weed Management Advisory Committee is currently assisting with Statewide Plan development and review, with members acting as regional liaisons and contacts. The current Charter for this committee is provided in Appendix L.

CONCLUSION

FWP owns and manages less than one-half of one percent of all lands in Montana, yet spends over half of a million dollars annually, not including staff time, for weed management on FWP-owned and managed land. A total of nearly four million in sportsmen's dollars is provided annually to private landowners through the Block Management Program for use in farm and ranch operations, which may include weed management activities. In FY07, FWP paid an additional \$184,613 in Block Management Weed Incentive Payments for private land weed control. In addition to FWP funding sources, nearly one million dollars in federal trails project grant funding were available through FWP in 2007. Federal trails projects require weed management plans to be in place and frequently include a weed control component.

The dedication of Fish, Wildlife and Parks to control and manage noxious weeds in Montana is evident in its integrated management and contributions to the cause. However, it is the individual efforts of Department personnel that truly have the "on-the-ground" impact. The experience and knowledge of these individuals must be maintained within the ranks so that ground gained is not lost as veteran land-managers hand over responsibility to up-and-coming managers. Expertise, coordination, and budgets must all come together to continue the Department's noxious weed management success.



Figure 6. Preserving the native landscape on Fishing Access Sites, Wildlife Management Areas, and State Parks such as Tower Rock will take continued vigilance and dedicated management.

APPENDIX A

FY07 Weed Management Summary

APPENDIX B

FY06 Weed Management Summary

APPENDIX C

Region 1 – FY07 Weed Management Report

APPENDIX D

Region 2 – FY07 Weed Management Report

APPENDIX E

Region 3 – FY07 Weed Management Report

APPENDIX F

Region 4 – FY07 Weed Management Report

APPENDIX G

Region 5 – FY07 Weed Management Report

REGION FIVE PARKS, FISHING ACCESS SITES,
& WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS
2007 WEED CONTROL REPORT

Cleve Schuster (R5 Parks Maintenance Supervisor)
September 20, 2007

General Activities

Region 5 continues to refine and expand our Integrated Weed Management program and to work closely with local counties, other agencies, our neighbors, and private business. I met with each of the County weed coordinators to get current Weed agreements sign, as well as to discuss future plans for effected sites.

I also met with the local applicators and contractors to discuss rising costs due to fuel and labor; most of the County Weed Co-coordinators felt that there was little need to increase spending in the sites with few exceptions. These exceptions were due to fires and wet spring conditions that have caused an increase in weed growth. I consider the fact that increases are being kept to a minimum as a sign that we are starting to get control of the noxious weed problem.

Region 5 is still participating in The Beartooth Weed Management Area. This weed management area encompasses portions of the following counties: Park, Sweetgrass, Stillwater, and Carbon. It is a cooperative agreement to share information, communicate innovative ideas, and better coordinate efforts. This group is currently working on a grant to deal with the knapweed problem on the Stillwater River from the mine on down stream, we are working closely with them on this project as it encompasses several of our FAS as it stands to date the grant process is still being written We also participate in cooperative projects in Wheatland, Stillwater, Yellowstone and Big Horn Counties.

The annual weed tour usually done in Stillwater County did not happen this year, due to a change in weed coordinators and heavy fire season. The Sweet Grass Weed Coordinator did put on a weed float down the upper Yellowstone however it was a last minute affair and we were unable to attend, the information gather looks very promising as very few Salt Cedar plants we located. These locations were mapped and will be monitored.

Region 5 State Park weed control costs during the 2007 season were \$6,039.00 Region 5 FAS weed control costs during the 2006 season were \$15,307.71 including 500.00 in Biological releases. Region 5 Park administration, education, and monitoring costs were approximately \$1,319.04. Region 5 Wildlife Management Area weed control costs during the 2007 season were \$3000.00. Milestone was used for the first time at the Big Lake site and will be monitored to check effectiveness.

Region 5 has begun to track time spent on mechanical control (mowing) and 80 man-hours were spent mowing throughout the region. Due to the wet spring and strange growing season this year the mechanical was not as productive as in the past.

Several different Counties (Sweet Grass, Carbon and Yellowstone) have requested that we install signs to make visitors aware of Salt Cedar and how to report any sightings. We are currently discussing this issue and how it fits into the signing policy.

Big Horn County

Arapooish FAS has been closed most of the season due to road construction on the new power plant the site has seen a noticeable drop in the spread of weeds as a result.

Grant Marsh FAS/WMA

Chemicals: Tordon, Amine 2-4D, and AD-90

Arapooish FAS, Big Horn FAS, Grant Marsh FAS, Mallard's Landing FAS, Two Leggins FAS

Chemicals: AD-90, Amine 2-4D, and Tordon 24

Chief Plenty Coups State Park

Cleve Schuster met With Ken Bechen to discuss work at the park and inventory weeds there. Also discussed was the treatment of the bindweed now that the lawn around the picnic area is being irrigated. Haying fees received offset some of the costs for treatment of weeds.

Chemical agents utilized included Triplet, Escort, Confront, Redeem, Cimarron, Glystar, fertilizer and R11 in spring and fall sprayings. Applications were made around the Chief's house, the museum, the gravesite, the Park Manager's house, and roadways.

Carbon County

Cleve Schuster met with Carbon County Weed District Coordinator Brian Oslwald. Items that were discussed at this was the use if liquid fertilizer in conjunction with herbicides to promote more chemical intake into the target plants.

FWP provided \$528 in funding to Carbon County to sterilize the campsites at the park

Silver Run WMA

Integrated Ag Services was contracted to do noxious weed control.

Chemicals: 2-4D Amine, Wilbur Ellis and Sytac.

Bull Springs FAS

Chemicals: 2-4D Amine, Tordon 22K, Transline, and Surfactant

Horsethief Station FAS

Sprayed for Spotted knapweed, hounds tongue ½ acre treated. Chemicals: 2-4D Amine, Tordon 22K, Transline, and Surfactant

Water Birch FAS.

Sprayed for Spotted knapweed, hounds tongue ½ acre treated. Chemicals: 2-4D Amine, Tordon 22K, Transline, and Surfactant

Beaver Lodge FAS

Sprayed for spotted knapweed, white top Canada thistle spot treated area with 18 gal of product $\frac{3}{4}$ of an acre treated.

Stillwater County

We continue to use sheep grazing on the Rosebud Isle site the sheep seem to be the best method in this site for controlling leafy spurge.

The Stillwater Weed District is still contracting with American Enterprise INC for its weed control work, and I am working closely with A.E.I. to ensure our needs are being met. I have toured all the sites A.E.I. performs work in both before they are treated and after for monitoring purposes. After inspecting the Fireman's Point site an additional 500.00 was added to the county contract for control of leafy spurge in the area at the back of the site, a new neighbor has made us aware of the patch and has offered to monitor the infested area.

Big Lake WMA

Integrated Ag Services was contracted to do noxious weed control. A fall chemical application targeted Canada thistle. The GPS information on this site was lost and has yet to be recovered

Chemicals Spring Application: 2-4D Amine, Escort, and Weedmaster

Chemicals Fall Application: 2-4D Amine, Tordon, Curtail, and Syltac

Absaroka FAS

Chemicals: Five Star Pro, Cimarron, and Surfactant

Buffalo Jump FAS

Chemicals: Five Star Pro, Cimarron, and Surfactant

Castle Rock FAS

Houndstongue, Burdock, Bindweed, and Thistle were sprayed.

Chemicals: Five Star Pro, Tordon, Cimarron, and Surfactant

Cliff Swallow FAS

The Derby fire went through this site so a close eye will be kept on it in the spring to monitor what weeds come back and where. Knapweed, Leafy Spurge, Houndstongue, and Thistle are problems on this site. Mowing has helped this site and should be continued. It has been noted that the knapweed in unburned areas has been pulled

Chemicals: Five Star Pro, Tordon, Cimarron, and Surfactant

Fireman's Point FAS

We have a new neighbor at this site and during a meeting with him he has agreed to monitor weeds along the ridge and hillside behind the developed area. Milkweed, Houndstongue, and Spotted Knapweed are present.

Chemicals: Vista, Cimarron, and Surfactant

Indian Fort FAS

Chemicals: Vista, Cimarron, and Surfactant

Moraine FAS

This access had very few noxious weeds. Roundup Pro was used on Bindweed growing in the middle of the road.

Chemical utilized included LV6 and Escort

Rosebud Isle FAS

35 ewes & 55 lambs were grazed on this site from 7/7-7/11. Houndstongue and Thistle were sprayed. Chemicals: Five Star Pro, Cimarron, and Surfactant

Swinging Bridge FAS

Chemicals: Vista, Cimarron, and Surfactant

Whitebird FAS

Spotted Knapweed, Hounds Tongue, Leafy Spurge, and Burdock were sprayed.

Chemicals: Five Star Pro, Cimarron, and Surfactant

Sweetgrass County

In cooperation with Sweetgrass County, Region 5 sponsored a Yellowstone River Noxious Weed Education Float. This is becoming an annual event that started with 3 people attending in 2003 and has grown to 12 people attending in 2004. The weed district has purchased one of the cleaning units for vehicles presented at the last Weed Conference and the weed coordinator has agreed to provide training on this equipment to all interested parties.

The weed district plans additional fall applications at Grey Bear, Boulder Forks, and Pelican.

Big Rock FAS

Chemicals: 24D Amine, Tordon 22K, and Syltac

Joan Hansen grazed sheep on this site for Leafy Spurge.

Apthona nigriscutis (Black Spotted Flea Beetle) is well established on the Leafy Spurge.

Pelican FAS

Kevin Halverson grazed sheep on this site for Leafy Spurge.

Apthona nigriscutis is well established on Leafy Spurge.

Chemicals: 24D Amine, Tordon 22k, Telar, and Syltac 8

Bratten FAS

Kevin Halverson grazed sheep for leafy spurge this sites works well for grazing. An intern worked this doing and reported that the site was in good shape with no major weed infestations.

Chemicals 1qt 24D Amine and 1 qt Tordon

Boulder Forks FAS

Chemicals: 24D Amine, Tordon 22k and Syltac

Grey Bear FAS

Chemical agents included Tordon and Syltac 8

Prairie Dog Town

Chemicals: 24D Amine, Tordon 22k, Telar, and Syltac 16

Otter Creek

Weeds were mowed along the roads as mechanical control. The site was revamped this year and will be closely monitored for weeds.

Wheatland County**Haymaker WMA**

Continued monitoring of this area has identified no noxious weed infestation.

Deadman's Basin

Arsonal and surfactant are being used to control the Tamarisk infestation around the lake. A one-quart rate of Tordon was applied to scattered Spotted Knapweed plants. This site will be monitored for knapweed and is a likely site for biological control next year when the insects become available.

Selkirk FAS

Mechanical treatment consisted of 5 acres of mowing along roads and developed areas. Tordon was applied to scattered Spotted Knapweed plants.

Yellowstone County**Broadview Pond FAS**

Yellowstone County Weed District providing chemical control.

Milkweed was sprayed.

Chemicals: Tordon 22K (24oz) Hardball (16oz) and S-90 (5oz) 4 gallons of product were sprayed over 0.2 acres from the entrance and along the road into pond. A small amount of salt cedar has been discovered at this site and we are working with the Yellowstone weed coordinator for early treatment and control a new neighbor has also been notified by the county.

Buffalo Mirage FAS

Aphthona nigriscutis and *Aphthona czwalinae/lacertosa* are well established on this site.

Leafy Spurge, Spotted Knapweed, and Salt cedar were sprayed.

Chemicals: Hardball (24oz) 20gal sprayed over 1 acre

Captain Clark FAS

Canada Thistle, Milkweed, and Poison Hemlock were sprayed.

Chemicals: Tordon, and Opti Amine

Duck Creek Bridge FAS

Released *Aphthona nigriscutis*. Are doing well

Sprayed for Canada Thistle, Milkweed and Field Bindweed.

Chemicals: Tordon22K (24oz), Hardball (16oz) and S-90(5oz) spot sprayed entire site using 20 gallons and covering 1 acre

Spot spraying

Spotted Knapweed, Leafy Spurge, Mullein, Canada Thistle and Houndstongue were sprayed. 10 gallons over 0.5 acres

Chemicals: Tordon 22K, (24oz) and Hardball(16oz)

East Bridge FAS

Milkweed, Spotted Knapweed, and Leafy Spurge were sprayed.

Chemicals: Tordon, and Opti Amine

Gritty Stone FAS

Leafy Spurge, Spotted Knapweed, Mullein, Canada Thistle, Milkweed, and Scotch Thistle were sprayed.

Chemicals: Tordon, and Opti Amine

Manuel Lisa FAS

Leafy Spurge, Milkweed, Canada Thistle, and Field Bindweed were sprayed.

Chemical: Tordon, and Opti Amine

Voyagers Rest FAS

Canada Thistle, Leafy Spurge, and Milkweed were sprayed.

Chemicals: Tordon, and Opti Amine

Lake Elmo State Park

American Enterprises, INC. used Confront, Triplet, Tricep, Round-UP Pro, R11 Surfactant, Vista, Escort, and Telar. Priority areas were the tree boxes, the pavilion, and the entrance.

An old trail was removed and a new trail is being constructed the disturbed areas will be closely monitored for weeds. Yellowstone County Weed District was notified that Tamarisk was found in the Park.

Yellowstone County sprayed the trail area around the lake.

Chemicals: Tordon, and Opti Amine

Pictograph Cave State Park

Yellowstone County sprayed the road right-of-way. Weeds sprayed were Field Bindweed and Canada thistle.

Chemicals: Tordon, and Opti Amine

APPENDIX H

Region 6 – FY07 Weed Management Report

APPENDIX I

Region 7 – FY07 Weed Management Report

APPENDIX J

FY 2007 Parks Division Weed Budget & Expenditures (SABHRS)

APPENDIX K

Montana Weed Laws and Regulations

Montana Weed Laws and Regulations

(Summarized from 2006 Montana Weed Management Plan)

The first noxious weed legislation in Montana was passed in 1939. Since that time, additional laws and rules have been enacted to strengthen weed management efforts. The eight laws currently affecting weed management in Montana are summarized below and described in detail in Appendix F.

The Montana State Noxious Weed list is updated as needed and is determined by Rule of the Montana Department of Agriculture (MDA) under the provisions of the Montana County Weed Control Act. Changes or additions are based on advice and recommendations from the Montana Noxious Weed List Advisory Committee. The Committee reviews requests for additions to the list received by the MDA, using established criteria, and makes recommendations to the Director of the MDA. Weeds on federal and regional weed lists are reviewed for inclusion on the Montana state list based on their potential to invade and spread within the state.

Montana Department of Agriculture (MDA) administers a number of laws relating to weed management in the state.

Section 7-22-2151 of the Montana County Weed Control Act requires that any state agency controlling land within a district enter into a written agreement with the board. The agreement must specify mutual responsibilities for integrated noxious weed management on state-owned or state-controlled. The plan must include: a 6-year integrated weed management plan, to be updated biennially; a noxious weeds goals statement; and a specific plan of operations for each biennium, including a budget. Each agency is required to submit a biennial performance report to the Montana Department of Agriculture. These provisions were enacted by the 1995 Montana Legislature, and MDA is currently working with agencies and counties to facilitate implementation. State agencies with weed management responsibilities are: Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks; Department of Natural Resources and Conservation; Department of Transportation; Department of Corrections; Department of Public Health & Human Services; and the University System.

The Montana Weed Control Act (Title 80, Chapter 7 Part 7) provides for technical assistance, funding of noxious plant management programs, and embargoes. Section 80-7-712 MCA allows the Montana Department of Agriculture to obtain federal funds and disburse funds to local governments authorized to conduct noxious plant management programs. In addition, Section 80-7-720 MCA provides for the following regarding biological agents for weed control: (1) the department of agriculture is authorized to expend funds for the collection and distribution of biological agents to control leafy spurge and spotted knapweed. The project will reduce energy consumption by reducing the need for repeated chemical application. (2) The department of natural resources and conservation is authorized to administratively transfer funds to the department of agriculture for the project described in subsection (1).

The Montana Noxious Weed Seed-Free Forage Act establishes a state noxious weed seed free forage and mulch certification program used by individuals, agencies, and private corporations on public and private lands. The Montana program supports and complements the regional North American Weed Management Association (NAWMA) Noxious Weed Seed-Free Forage Certification Program. This program provides forage products that are free of regionally-designated noxious weeds seeds or any injurious portions of plants and any propagating parts of plants that are capable of producing new plants.

The Montana Agricultural Seed Act lists prohibited and restricted seed levels that must be maintained in state certified seed. All state noxious weeds are included in this list.

The Montana Commercial Feed Act prohibits noxious weeds in commercial feed.

The Montana Nursery Law allows for inspection, certification, and embargo of all nursery stock for listed pests, including weeds.

The Montana Environmental Policy Act must be addressed by all MDA actions that have potential environmental or socioeconomic impacts.

The Montana Noxious Weed Trust Fund Act is a grant-funding program designed to encourage local cooperative weed management programs, creative research in weed control, including the development of biological control methods, and educational programs. The MDA is responsible for weed supervisor training standards and listing of statewide noxious weeds by rule under the Montana County Weed Control Act. Revenue for the current grants program comes from interest from the \$4.76 million Trust and from the vehicle weed fee of \$1.50 per vehicle. Annual revenue from these two sources varies with current interest rates and averages between \$1.2 and \$1.7 million. In addition to the interest, the Noxious Weed Trust Fund (NWTF) receives \$101,337 annually from the Montana General Fund (these funds were redirected in 2003 from FWP general fund to the Department of Agriculture general fund), and in 2004, a grant of \$100,000 from the Natural Resource Conservation Service. Since 2001, \$830,000 annually has been provided to the NWTF from USDA Cooperative Forestry Assistance to manage weed infestations on Private, tribal and non-federal public lands having at least 10% tree cover.

APPENDIX L

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Noxious Weed Management Advisory Committee Charter

FWP NOXIOUS WEED MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Statement of Need:

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP) owns, leases, or manages over 500 sites across the state and is responsible for noxious weed management on approximately 400,000 acres of land. Managed sites include 50 state parks, 320 fishing access sites, 109 wildlife management areas, and more than 40 administrative sites, fish hatcheries, etc.

By its nature, noxious weed management impacts a wide spectrum of public resources and recreational interests. Weed management is inherently programmatic and touches virtually every aspect of the agency in some respect. Management actions and decisions must recognize the potential for controversy and involve a broad spectrum of agency and public interests.

The Mission:

The mission of the Noxious Weed Management (NWM) Advisory Committee is to provide interdisciplinary coordination and review for noxious weed management on Department owned and managed lands.

Team Goals:

- 1) Help ensure that FWP noxious weed management is compatible with both the overall mission of FWP and the Montana Weed Management Plan.
- 2) Provide balance and consistency in the noxious weed management program by addressing the need for integrated management across Division and Administrative Region boundaries.
- 3) Be proactive in resolving controversy associated with Department noxious weed management.
- 4) Ensure that appropriate interest groups are effectively involved in the FWP noxious weed management decision process.

Team Resources:

Field Services will coordinate and provide support for NWM Advisory Committee meetings and locations, and support development of the Statewide Integrated Noxious Weed Management Plan (the Team's initial task). Team members are responsible for providing fiscal support for meeting attendance, including travel and lodging when necessary, and individual effort for tasks associated with completing Team goals.

Team Authority and Duration:

The Team is both advisory and decision making in nature. Due to the multi-disciplinary composition of the Team, the Team Leader seeks to maintain integrated management action across disciplines.

The Team is chartered for Fiscal Years 2008 and 2009 to ensure specific task completion. The need for the Team will be reviewed upon completion of the specific delineated tasks and may be continued with existing or new members and assignments in FY 2008.

Team Oversight:

The Chief of Staff and Chief of Operations shall serve as Team Sponsors. The Sponsors will act as a resource, providing policy input to the Team's work. The Sponsors will also provide a quick method of resolving problems or obtaining additional support.

The Field Services Division Administrator is responsible for oversight of the Team and its work. He is not a team member, but will function as the "Coach" for the group and will be responsible for the team's success. The Coach will serve as the interface between the Team and Sponsors to resolve problems and facilitate solutions.

Team Membership and Roles:

In recognition of the Team's programmatic emphasis, membership will be broad-spectrum in nature. All programs and various specific disciplines will be represented.

The Team will be composed of Helena Headquarters and Region based representatives from Communication and Education, Enforcement, Field Services, Fisheries, Legal Unit, Parks, and Wildlife. Each Division and Region will be represented by at least, but not limited to, one member. Additional membership from stakeholders is welcome and will be periodically solicited.

The Landowner/Wildlife Resource Specialist will serve as Statewide Weed Management Coordinator and the Team Leader. The Team Leader will be responsible for calling meetings, facilitating Team discussions, tracking Team tasks and accomplishments, and will also be responsible for coordination and liaison with affected work units as necessary.

Refer to the attached list for names and positions of current team members.

Team Operating Procedures:

The Team will meet as necessary to accomplish assigned tasks. The Team may establish sub-committees or individual staff assignments within the scope of their authority and resources.

The Team will make decisions by consensus when possible. If the committee cannot reach agreement, alternative points of view will be defined for resolution or decisions by higher authorities.

Specific Assignments and Expected Products:

The Noxious Weed Management Advisory Committee is expected to:

1. Coordinate and facilitate development of the “FWP Statewide Integrated Noxious Weed Management Plan;”
2. Act as Regional and Division representatives during development and review of the “Plan;”
3. Review the “Montana Weed Management Plan” and determine how well FWP is doing statewide to fulfill the stated goals and objectives (This will be critical for identifying issues that need to be addressed in the FWP Plan); and
4. Improve consistency in reporting forms and county agreements.

Tasks with an end product will be completed in a timely manner. The FWP Integrated Noxious Weed Management Plan will be completed by June 30, 2008.

Noxious Weed Management Advisory Committee Members (As of 12/31/07):

Member	Representing – Position/Title
Paul Sihler	FWP Field Services – Administrator (Coach)
Joe Weigand	FWP Field Services – Landowner/Wildlife Resource Specialist (Team Leader)
Steve Knapp	FWP Wildlife – Habitat Bureau Chief
Allan Kuser	FWP Parks – Fishing Access Site Coordinator
Dianne Tipton	FWP Communication and Education Statewide Information Officer
John Grant	FWP Region 1 Wildlife – Wildlife Area Manager
Mike Hathaway	FWP Region 2 Parks – Parks Specialist
Dave Dziak	FWP Region 2 Wildlife – Wildlife Area Manager
Fred King	FWP Region 3 Wildlife – Wildlife Area Manager
Ray Swartz	FWP Region 4 Parks – Maintenance Supervisor
Doug Habermann	FWP Region 5 Parks – Regional Parks Manager
Dave Andrus	FWP Region 6 Department Administration – Conservation Specialist
Dwayne Andrews	FWP Region 7 Comm. Ed. – Regional Info. and Ed. Program Manager
Celestine Duncan	Weed Management Services – Consultant
Dave Burch	Montana Department of Agriculture – State Weed Coordinator
Scott Bockness	Montana Weed Control Association – Past-President
Jim Freeman	County Weed District Representative – Cascade County (Retired)